

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 270929Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4356

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3273

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CH, TW, HK

SUBJECT: HONG KONG PRESS ON AMNESTIED WAR CRIMINALS

REF: HONG KONG 3096

1. THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS MARCH 27 CONTINUED ITS HEAVY PROPAGANDA PLAY ON THE AMNESTIED FORMER KMT WAR CRIMINALS BY FEATURING INTERVIEWS WITH EX-KMT OFFICIALS IN BOTH HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI. BOTH WEN WEI PAO AND TA KING PAO FEATURED INTERVIEWS WITH THREE FORMER WAR CRIMINALS NOW LIVING IN SHANGHAI, TWO OF WHOM WERE RELEASED IN 1960 AND THE THIRD IN 1961. ALL THREE MADE THE PREDICTABLE LAUDATORY REMARKS ABOUT MAO AND THE PARTY BUT, UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYING TO FORMER KMT COMRADES NOW IN TAIWAN, THEY STRESSED THE CARE GIVEN TO THEIR FAMILIES (INCLUDING IN SOME CASES UNIVERSITY EDUCATION) WHILE THEY WERE STILL PRISONERS AND THEIR ABILITY TO FIND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT AFTER THEIR RELEASE. SIGNIFICANTLY, TWO OF THE THREE NOW

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WORK FOR THE SHANGHAI OFFICE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S

POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CPPCC), WHICH IS THE
PRC'S FOREMOST "UNITED FRONT" ORGANIZATION.

2. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TA KUNG PAO MARCH 27 FEATURED COMMENTS ON THE AMNESTY IN HONG KONG. ONE UNNAMED FORMER KMT OFFICIAL EXPRESSED HIS ANGER WITH THE KMT FOR HAVING CLAIMED THAT HIS JUST-RELEASED OLD COMRADE HAD DIED MANY YEARS AGO. A "MAN OF RENOWN IN KMT MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCLES" CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "EVEN WHEN TAIWAN IS LIBERATED...THERE MIGHT BE AN OUTLET FOR EVERYBODY, SO THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF." ANOTHER ANONYMOUS HONG KONG RESIDENT IS QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT IF EVEN WEN CHIANG, WHO WORKED FOR THE NOTORIOUS TAI LI, CAN BE FORGIVEN, THEN THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE READY TO "UNITE WITH EVERYONE THAT CAN BE UNITED WITH"--A GOOD MAOIST MAXIM.

3. THIS COVERAGE PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE AMNESTY WAR PRIMARILY AIMED AT THE AGING KMT OFFICIALS IN TAIWAN AND ABROAD AND THAT WE LIKELY WILL BE HEARING A GREAT DEAL MORE FROM THE RECENTLY-RELEASED "WAR CRIMINALS" IN THE FUTURE.
CROSS

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